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PATENT APPLICATION 6/30/02  
PH  
12/1A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of  
Andre BOUILLE

Attorney Docket Q68695

Appln. No.: Not Assigned

PCI/FR01/02151

Confirmation No.: Not Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Assigned

Filed: March 05, 2002

Examiner: Not Assigned

For: HYBRID CONTACT ROLLER BEARINGS FOR VACUUM PUMP

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

- A<sup>1</sup>
9. A landing bearing for a vacuum pump, comprising:
- a rotor ring and a coaxial stator ring defining a roller housing between them; and
  - rolling elements housed one after another in the roller housing and rolling on respective running tracks of the rotor ring and stator ring;
- wherein the rolling elements comprise an alternating succession of rolling elements having outside surfaces made of steel and of rolling elements having outside surfaces made of ceramic,
- and wherein the ceramic rolling elements are of a diameter which is equal to the diameter of the steel rolling elements under normal operating temperature conditions.